



Brother John Walsh, CSC

Cleric named in abduction

Accused of kidnapping 2 boys at gunpoint

By David Galante

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Horrifying memories have returned to a Webster Avenue woman whose 12-year-old son was abducted at gunpoint Saturday near Manhattan Square Park downtown.

The boy and his 11-year-old companion escaped uninjured and jotted down the license plate number of their kidnapper's car.

That information led police yesterday to charge Brother John D. Walsh, 43, an assistant principal at Cardinal Mooney High School in Greece and a member of the Brothers of Holy Cross, with second-degree kidnapping.

He pleaded innocent yesterday during his arraignment in City Court and was released after posting a \$7,500 bail bond.

Walsh is accused of abducting the two boys about 6:15 p.m. Saturday near Manhattan Square Park.

The boys told police a man in a late-model blue station wagon drove up to them and asked directions to Peddler's Village, a shopping area in the Village Gate on North Goodman Street.

"I waved toward him and said no," said Darlene Ortiz' son in a statement filed in City Court. "I knew what he was up to. I thought

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that he was going to try and get us," the son said.

But the man got out of the car and grabbed Ortiz' son by the arm. His companion started to run away, but the man held a gun to Ortiz' son's head and told the companion he would blow the boy's head off if he didn't return, the boys told police. Both boys then got into the car and the man drove them east on Interstate 490 through Brighton and Penfield.

"The scariest part was when he put that gun to my head," Ortiz' son said yesterday. "I didn't know what else to do but what he said. I didn't know if he'd shoot."

The man eventually returned to the city

and released the boys near Village Gate Square. Ortiz' son said he memorized the license plate number of the car, ran to a nearby restaurant and wrote it down on a piece of paper. He then went home and told his mother, who called the police.

Walsh was arrested after the license plate number was traced.

"I've always told my son not to talk to strangers, don't accept anything from strangers, and above all, don't ever get into a stranger's car," Ortiz said. "But this was different. He was forced into that car. When I heard he held a gun to his head, I was never so scared . . ."

But for Darlene Ortiz, 34, of 157 Webster Ave., the abduction of her son has

brought back the chilling memory of the 1971 rape and slaying of her young cousin, Carmen Colon, the first victim of Rochester's infamous "double initial murders."

Carmen Colon, Ortiz' cousin by marriage, was 10 years old on Nov. 16, 1971 when she was abducted while running an errand to a drug store near her Bull's Head home. Her body was found two days later in a ditch along Stearns Road in Riga. She had been raped and strangled.

Her slaying was the first of the "double initial murders," so dubbed because the three young female victims' first and last names began with the same letter.

The partially clad body of Wanda Wal-

kowicz, 11, of Avenue D, was found near the Irondequoit Bay Bridge in April 1973; and the body of Michelle Maenza, 11, was found in November 1973 in the town of Macedon, Wayne County. Both girls also had been raped and strangled.

All three homicides remain unsolved.

"My son was lucky, thank God," Ortiz said. "I just wish Carmen had been so lucky. She would have been with us today, a young woman."

At his arraignment yesterday, Walsh was ordered by City Court Judge Gary E. Smith to undergo a mental examination to determine whether he is competent to stand trial.